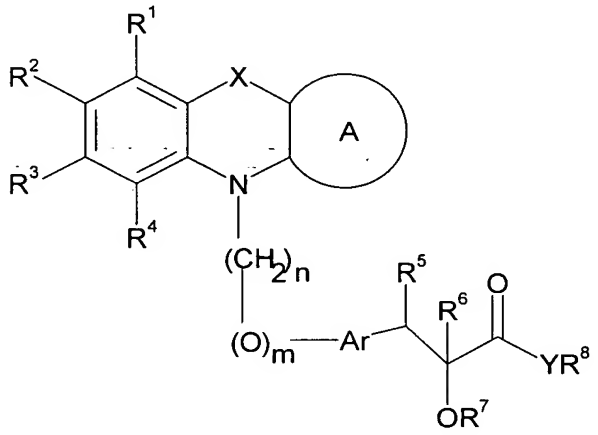
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3-6, 8-16, 18-44, 48-52, and 56-60 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same claim numbers (a marked-up version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.21 is attached hereto):

1. (Amended) A compound of formula (Ia)



(Ia)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 independently of each other represent hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, or C_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-12}-alkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-12}-alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxyC_{1-12}-alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-12}-alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkylthio, thioC_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, $-COR^{11}$, or $-SO_2R^{12}$, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, perhalomethyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy or amino optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}-alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

or R^1 and R^2, R^2 and R^3 and/or R^3 and R^4 may form a cyclic ring containing from 5 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}-alkyl;

ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or C_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxy or aryl;

X is -S-(CHR^9)-, -(NR^9)-S(O_2)-, -CH_2-(SO)-, -(SO)-, -(SO_2)-, -CH_2-(SO_2)-, wherein R^9 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, C_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyalkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-12}-alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxyC_{1-12}-alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-12}-alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkylthio, thioC_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR^{13}, or -SO_2R^{14}, wherein R^{13} and R^{14} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, amino optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}-alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl;

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Ar represents arylene or heteroarylene, optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}-alkyl or aryl;
R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-12}-alkoxy, C_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl or aralkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R^5 forms a bond together with R^6,
R^6 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-12}-alkoxy, C_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, acyl or aralkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R^6 forms a bond together with R^5,
R^7 represents hydrogen, C_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxyC_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{1-12}-alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, C_{1-12}-alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

R^8 represents hydrogen, C_{1-12}-alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

A2

Y represents oxygen, sulphur or NR^{10}, where R^{10} represents hydrogen, C_{1-12}-alkyl, aryl, hydroxyC_{1-12}-alkyl or aralkyl groups or when Y is NR^{10}, R^8 and R^{10} may form a 5 or 6 membered nitrogen containing ring, optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}-alkyl;

n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 0 to 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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2. (Not amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 independently of each other represent hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{4-7}-alkenynyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-7}-alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{1-7}-alkylthio, thioC_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, $-COR^{11}$, or $-SO_2R^{12}$, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, perhalomethyl or amino optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}-alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or cyano; or R^1 and R^2, R^2 and R^3 and/or R^3 and R^4 may form a cyclic ring containing from 5 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}-alkyl.

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7. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{4-7}-alkenynyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-7}-alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{1-7}-alkylthio, thioC_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, $-COR^{11}$, or $-SO_2R^{12}$, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, perhalomethyl or

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amino optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}-alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or cyano.

17. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar represents arylene or heteroarylene;

R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen; or R^5 forms a bond together with R^6,

R^6 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen; or R^6 forms a bond together with R^5,

R^7 represents hydrogen, C_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxyC_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{1-7}-alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups;

R^8 represents hydrogen, C_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl;

Y represents oxygen or sulphur;

n is an integer ranging from 2 to 3 and m is 1.

45. (Amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[2-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Methoxy-3-{4-[2-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Propoxy-3-{4-[2-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[2-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[3-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Propoxy-3-{4-[3-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Methoxy-3-{4-[3-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[3-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10l^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Propoxy-3-{4-[3-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10l^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Methoxy-3-{4-[3-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10l^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[2-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Methoxy-3-{4-[2-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Propoxy-3-{4-[2-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[2-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[3-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Propoxy-3-{4-[3-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Methoxy-3-{4-[3-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[3-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[3-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Propoxy-3-{4-[3-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Methoxy-3-{4-[3-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Benzyloxy-3-{4-[3-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(5-oxo-5*H*-5l^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,

3-(4-(2-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(2-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(2-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(2-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(1-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,

3-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

A5 3-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-5-oxo-phenothiazin-10-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. The compound according to claim 1 which is
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[2-(11-methyl-10,10-dioxo-10,11-dihydro-10λ^6-thia-5,11-diaza-dibenzo[a,*d*]cyclohepten-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[2-(5-oxo-5*H*-5λ^4-phenothiazin-10-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

A6 47. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

53. (Amended) A method for the treatment of ailments, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

A7 54. (Amended) A method for the treatment of conditions mediated by nuclear receptors, in particular the Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPAR), the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

55. (Amended) A method for the treatment of diabetes or obesity, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.